



Child, Youth & School (CYS) Services Update

11 February 2015

Installation Management Command



Child, Youth & School Services



Agenda

- Overview
- Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program
- Operation: Military Kid (OMK)
- Boys & Girls Club of America (BGCA) Mission Youth Outreach
- School Support



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Overview

- Mission: Support Readiness & Well-Being of Families by Reducing the conflict between military unit mission requirements and parental responsibilities
- Child Care is not an entitlement but supports the work force to help minimize the conflicts between mission requirements and parental responsibilities
- Geographically dispersed soldiers need child care services to support mission requirements and respite for eligible service members
- Army operated programs exist at 115 on-post locations in the US & 8 Countries/Territories
- Army Community Based CYS Services programs operated in 50 states
- Community based child care options supplement, not replace Military Operated on base mission child care



Army Fee Assistance (AFA)



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Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program

- Army Fee Assistance (AFA) subsidizes the total cost of child care for Army Families when local programs are more expensive than Army operated programs. Fee Assistance buys down the higher cost of off-post care allowing eligible Families to pay fees comparable to those charged on the Installation
- AFA is also available to help meet the needs of eligible geographically dispersed Families and deployed Families who cannot access Army operated or Army affiliated programs
- Providers and Parents must apply for AFA via the Third Party Administrator, the General Services Administration (GSA)
- Eligibility and program placement will be determined based on Army CYS Services guidance, as per current year school fee policy and is subject to availability of funds
- AFA helps pay a portion of the child care fees associated with full-time, part-time, before & after school, respite care, as well as weekend and evening duty care depending on Sponsor's eligibility status
- AFA will pay all of the child care provider's registration fees up to \$150



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Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program

- Eligibility Requirements for Army Families
 - Families of Active and Reserve Component Soldier (Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers must be activated to be eligible)
 - Department of the Army Civilians (both Appropriated and Non-Appropriated Funded Employees)
 - Wounded Warrior s assigned to WTB and WTU
 - Survivors of Fallen Soldiers
 - Children are legal dependents of the Army Sponsor , and are from birth through 12 years of age
 - Spouse/partner is working and/or attending school
 - Child care is utilized a minimum of 16 hours per week



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Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program

- Parent Responsibilities
 - Complete the application process and forms required to determine eligibility
 - Meet program guidelines and use a qualifying child care provider
 - Pay the Family portion of child care costs directly to the Provider
 - Sign the GSA Invoice/Attendance form each and every month to request payment from the GSA on behalf of the Army
 - Pay for additional charge for services that may incur including field trip, non-essential supplies, late fees, etc
 - Report any change of child care needs immediately to the GSA and the child care provider



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Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program

- **Eligibility Requirements for Child Care Providers**
 - All providers must meet AFA's child care licensing and Accreditation requirements for the type of child care business operated
 - Providers must re-certify annually by submitting current state license, annual inspection report
 - Meet program rules and requirements in order to receive AFA
- **Provider Responsibilities**
 - Complete the application process and forms required to determine eligibility
 - Meet program guidelines and maintain good standing with state licensing
 - Sign the GSA Invoice/Attendance form each and every month to request payment from the GSA on behalf of the Army
 - Report any change of status immediately to GSA and state licensing agency
 - Bill for the AFA using the directions provided by GSA
 - Keep complete and accurate attendance records according to licensing and Accreditation regulations and/or contract requirements



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Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program

- GSA Subsidy Administration Section Responsibilities as the Third Party Administrator of AFA:
 - Determine a Families' eligibility for child care subsidies based on AFA guidance
 - Authorize the amount of child care needed by eligible Families as approved
 - Pay providers for authorized and billed child care services provided to eligible Families
 - Inform Families and providers of AFA updates as applicable (e.g. start/end dates, payment, notifications of expired documents, etc)
 - Assess and resolve payment issues or disputes
 - Answer questions related to eligibility, authorizations, and payments



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Army Fee Assistance (AFA) Program

- GSA administers the Army Fee Assistance Program on behalf of the Army
- Families can download application from the GSA/AFA website or by calling GSA and having the application emailed or mailed
- Supporting documents must be submitted with the application per instructions, to demonstrate eligibility and total family income
- Supporting Documents:
 - Self Certification Form
 - Service Member's Leave/Earning Statement (LES)
 - Spouse's most recent pay stub or proof of enrollment in school (pay stub must cover one full pay cycle)
 - Children(s) birth certificate or self certification statement
 - Military orders

Contact:

Army Fee Assistance Program Representatives

At GSA by calling: 1-866-508-0371

Or visiting the website

http://financeweb.gsa.gov/childcare_portal



Operation: Military Kid



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Operation: Military Kid

- Collaborative effort with America's communities to support geographically dispersed military kids impacted by deployment
- OMK State Teams operate in 44 states and the District of Columbia
- Networks of people, organizations and other resources support Army Families
- Core Programs include:
 - Ready, Set, Go! Training for OMK State Teams
 - Mobile Technology Labs
 - Family Packs
 - Speak Out for Military Kids (SOMK)
- Current funding for OMK is through the Army National Guard and Army Reserves with Army CYSS overseeing the execution of contract. Current contract ends 31 March 2015
- New contract is under development . Delay in services may occur after 31 March, until new contract is awarded



Mission Youth Outreach



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Boys & Girls Clubs Of America (BGCA) Mission Youth Outreach

- Founded through a Joint Military Services initiative, military dependent children/youth ages 6-18 can get pre-paid programs and services through local off-post Boys & Girl Clubs
- Individual annual memberships funded and contracted by Army CYS Services
- Supports military kids coping with the stress of having parents deployed
- Creates a network of youth who can empathize and help peers cope with being a “military youth”
- Mirrors Army CYS Services Youth Programs framework by Clubs offering diversified program activities in five areas, i.e. Character & Leadership development, Education & Career Development, Health & Life Skills, Arts, Sports, Fitness & Recreation



School Support Services



School Transition Support for Geographically Dispersed



In-State Tuition for Military Dependents

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2009

- States that all public institutions of higher education must charge in-state tuition to a dependent child of a member of the armed forces who is on active duty. Instate tuition applies only to the state that is the services member's home of record and to the state where the service member is currently assigned
- Once the student is enrolled and paying in-state tuition, they will continue to pay the in-state tuition rate as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the institution, even if the Service member is reassigned outside the state



School Transition Support for Geographically Dispersed



Interstate Compact on Education Opportunities for Military Children

State Adoption Process

- All 50 states have adopted the compact and are in various stages of implementation

Basic Components

- Applies to children of:
 - Active duty members (includes active Guard and Reserve)
 - Severely injured members and veterans (for 1 year)
 - Members who die on active duty (for 1 year)
- Includes specific rules to facilitate:
 - Enrollment - transfer of records, immunization requirements, age and course continuation requirements
 - Eligibility - enrollment status when child is under care of non-custodial parents, power of attorney rights, tuition remission rights, rights to participate in extracurricular activities
 - Placement - course and educational program placement, placement flexibility, time and attendance flexibility
 - Graduation - flexibility on graduation requirements, flexibility on exit exams, facilitation of on-time graduation

Who do I contact in My State to Learn More about What is and is Not Covered in the Compact?

- You should contact your State Compact Commissioner. Contact information for each State commissioner can be found on the Commission website at:
www.mic2.net



Questions